



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 6874**

January Session, 2015



**AN ACT CONCERNING GRADUATE ASSISTANT BENEFITS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 3-123aaa of the general statutes is repealed and  
2 the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

3 As used in this section and sections 3-123bbb to 3-123hhh, inclusive:

4 (1) "Health Care Cost Containment Committee" means the  
5 committee established in accordance with the ratified agreement  
6 between the state and the State Employees Bargaining Agent Coalition  
7 pursuant to subsection (f) of section 5-278.

8 (2) "Nonprofit employee" means any employee of a nonprofit  
9 employer.

10 (3) "Nonprofit employer" means (A) a nonprofit corporation,  
11 organized under 26 USC 501, as amended from time to time, that (i)  
12 has a purchase of service contract, as defined in section 4-70b, or (ii)  
13 receives fifty per cent or more of its gross annual revenue from grants  
14 or funding from the state, the federal government or a municipality or  
15 any combination thereof, or (B) an organization that is tax exempt  
16 pursuant to 26 USC 501(c)(5), as amended from time to time.

17 (4) "Nonstate public employee" means any employee or elected

18 officer of a nonstate public employer.

19 (5) "Nonstate public employer" means a municipality or other  
20 political subdivision of the state, including a board of education, quasi-  
21 public agency or public library. A municipality and a board of  
22 education may be considered separate employers.

23 (6) "Partnership plan" means a health care benefit plan offered by  
24 the Comptroller to nonstate public employers or nonprofit employers  
25 [under] pursuant to section 3-123bbb, and to graduate assistants at The  
26 University of Connecticut pursuant to section 10a-105, as amended by  
27 this act.

28 (7) "State employee plan" means a self-insured group health care  
29 benefits plan established under subsection (m) of section 5-259.

30 Sec. 2. Section 10a-105 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
31 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2015*):

32 (a) Subject to the provisions of sections 10a-8 and 10a-26, the Board  
33 of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall fix fees for tuition  
34 and shall fix fees for such other purposes as the board deems necessary  
35 at The University of Connecticut, and may make refunds of the same.

36 (b) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall  
37 establish and administer a fund to be known as The University of  
38 Connecticut Operating Fund, and in addition, may establish a Special  
39 External Gift Fund, and an endowment fund, as defined in section 10a-  
40 109c, and such other funds as may be established pursuant to  
41 subdivision (13) of subsection (a) of section 10a-109d. Appropriations  
42 from general revenues of the state and, upon request by the university  
43 and with an annual review and approval by the Secretary of the Office  
44 of Policy and Management, the amount of the appropriations for fringe  
45 benefits and workers' compensation applicable to the university  
46 pursuant to subsection (a) of section 4-73, shall be transferred from the  
47 Comptroller, and all tuition revenue received by the university in  
48 accordance with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, income

49 from student fees or related charges, the proceeds of auxiliary activities  
50 and business enterprises, gifts and donations, federal funds and grants  
51 for purposes other than research and all receipts derived from the  
52 conduct by The University of Connecticut of its education extension  
53 program and its summer school session, except funds received by The  
54 University of Connecticut Health Center, shall be deposited in said  
55 operating fund. If the Secretary of the Office of Policy and  
56 Management disapproves such transfer, he may require the amount of  
57 the appropriation for operating expenses to be used for personal  
58 services and fringe benefits to be excluded from said fund. The State  
59 Treasurer shall review and approve the transfer prior to such request  
60 by the university. All costs of waiving or remitting tuition pursuant to  
61 subsection (g) of this section, except the cost of waiving or remitting  
62 tuition for students enrolled in the schools of medicine or dental  
63 medicine, shall be charged to said fund. Repairs, alterations or  
64 additions to facilities supported by said fund costing one million  
65 dollars or more shall require the approval of the General Assembly, or  
66 when the General Assembly is not in session, of the Finance Advisory  
67 Committee. Any balance of receipts above expenditures shall remain  
68 in said fund, except such sums as may be required for deposit into a  
69 debt service fund or the General Fund for further payment by the  
70 Treasurer of debt service on general obligation bonds of the state  
71 issued for purposes of The University of Connecticut.

72 (c) The Board of Trustees of The University of Connecticut shall  
73 establish and administer a fund to be known as The University of  
74 Connecticut Health Center Operating Fund. Appropriations from  
75 general revenues of the state except the amount of the appropriation  
76 for operating expenses to be used for personal services and the  
77 appropriations for fringe benefits pursuant to subsection (a) of section  
78 4-73, all tuition revenue received by the health center in accordance  
79 with the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, income from  
80 student fees or related charges, proceeds from auxiliary and business  
81 enterprises, gifts and donations, federal funds and grants for purposes  
82 other than research and other income relative to these activities shall

83 be deposited in said fund. All costs of waiving or remitting tuition  
84 pursuant to subsection (g) of this section for students enrolled in the  
85 schools of medicine or dental medicine shall be charged to said fund.  
86 Repairs, alterations or additions to facilities supported by said fund  
87 costing one million dollars or more shall require the approval of the  
88 General Assembly, or when the General Assembly is not in session, of  
89 the Finance Advisory Committee. Any balance of receipts above  
90 expenditures shall remain in said fund, except such sums as may be  
91 required for deposit into a debt service fund or the General Fund for  
92 further payment by the Treasurer of debt service on general obligation  
93 bonds of the state issued for purposes of The University of Connecticut  
94 Health Center.

95 (d) Commencing December 1, 1981, and thereafter not later than  
96 sixty days after the close of each quarter, the board of trustees shall  
97 submit to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
98 having cognizance of matters relating to appropriations and the  
99 budgets of state agencies, the Office of Higher Education and the  
100 Office of Policy and Management a report on the actual expenditures  
101 of The University of Connecticut Operating Fund and The University  
102 of Connecticut Health Center Operating Fund containing such relevant  
103 information as the Office of Policy and Management may require in  
104 the form prescribed by the board of regents in accordance with  
105 subsection (a) of section 10a-8.

106 (e) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition fees at  
107 The University of Connecticut (1) for any dependent child of a person  
108 whom the armed forces of the United States has declared to be missing  
109 in action or to have been a prisoner of war while serving in such armed  
110 forces after January 1, 1960, which child has been accepted for  
111 admission to The University of Connecticut and is a resident of  
112 Connecticut at the time such child is accepted for admission to said  
113 institution, (2) subject to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section,  
114 for any veteran who performed service in time of war, as defined in  
115 subsection (a) of section 27-103, except that for purposes of this

116 subsection, "service in time of war" shall not include time spent in  
117 attendance at a military service academy, who has been accepted for  
118 admission to said institution and is domiciled in this state at the time  
119 such veteran is accepted for admission to said institution, (3) for any  
120 resident of Connecticut sixty-two years of age or older who has been  
121 accepted for admission to said institution, provided (A) such person is  
122 enrolled in a degree-granting program, or (B) at the end of the regular  
123 registration period, there are enrolled in the course a sufficient number  
124 of students other than those persons eligible for waivers pursuant to  
125 this subdivision to offer the course in which such person intends to  
126 enroll and there is space available in such course after accommodating  
127 all such students, (4) for any active member of the Connecticut Army  
128 or Air National Guard who (A) has been certified by the Adjutant  
129 General or such Adjutant General's designee as a member in good  
130 standing of the guard, and (B) is enrolled or accepted for admission to  
131 said institution on a full-time or part-time basis in an undergraduate or  
132 graduate degree-granting program, (5) for any dependent child of a  
133 (A) police officer, as defined in section 7-294a, or supernumerary or  
134 auxiliary police officer, (B) firefighter, as defined in section 7-323j, or  
135 member of a volunteer fire company, (C) municipal employee, or (D)  
136 state employee, as defined in section 5-154, killed in the line of duty,  
137 (6) for any resident of the state who is the dependent child or surviving  
138 spouse of a specified terrorist victim who was a resident of the state,  
139 (7) for any dependent child of a resident of the state who was killed in  
140 a multivehicle crash at or near the intersection of Routes 44 and 10 and  
141 Nod Road in Avon on July 29, 2005, and (8) for any resident of the state  
142 who is a dependent child or surviving spouse of a person who was  
143 killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed  
144 forces of the United States on or after September 11, 2001, and who  
145 was a resident of this state. If any person who receives a tuition waiver  
146 in accordance with the provisions of this subsection also receives  
147 educational reimbursement from an employer, such waiver shall be  
148 reduced by the amount of such educational reimbursement. Veterans  
149 described in subdivision (2) of this subsection and members of the  
150 National Guard described in subdivision (4) of this subsection shall be

151 given the same status as students not receiving tuition waivers in  
152 registering for courses at The University of Connecticut.  
153 Notwithstanding the provisions of section 10a-30, as used in this  
154 subsection, "domiciled in this state" includes domicile for less than one  
155 year.

156 (f) (1) If any veteran described in subsection (e) of this section has  
157 applied for federal educational assistance under the Post-9/11  
158 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008, the board of trustees shall  
159 waive the payment of tuition at The University of Connecticut for such  
160 veteran in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection. If any  
161 such veteran certifies to said board that such veteran's application for  
162 such federal educational assistance has been denied or withdrawn,  
163 said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition in accordance  
164 with subsection (d) of this section.

165 (2) (A) For purposes of this subdivision, "veteran tuition benefit"  
166 means the portion of federal educational assistance under the Post-  
167 9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 to be paid to The  
168 University of Connecticut on behalf of a veteran that represents  
169 payment for tuition. Such portion shall be calculated by multiplying (i)  
170 the total amount of such federal educational assistance to be paid to  
171 The University of Connecticut on behalf of such veteran by (ii) an  
172 amount obtained by dividing (I) the actual tuition charged by The  
173 University of Connecticut to such veteran by (II) the sum of the actual  
174 tuition and fees charged by The University of Connecticut to such  
175 veteran.

176 (B) Said board of trustees shall waive the payment of tuition in  
177 excess of the veteran tuition benefit at The University of Connecticut  
178 for such veteran.

179 (g) Said board of trustees shall set aside from its anticipated tuition  
180 revenue, an amount not less than that required by the board of  
181 governors' tuition policy established under subdivision (3) of  
182 subsection (a) of section 10a-6. Such funds shall be used to provide

183 tuition waivers, tuition remissions, grants for educational expenses  
184 and student employment for any undergraduate, graduate or  
185 professional student who is enrolled as a full or part-time matriculated  
186 student in a degree-granting program, or enrolled in a precollege  
187 remedial program, and who demonstrates substantial financial need.  
188 Said board may also set aside from its anticipated tuition revenue an  
189 additional amount equal to one per cent of said tuition revenue for  
190 financial assistance for students who would not otherwise be eligible  
191 for financial assistance but who do have a financial need as determined  
192 by the university in accordance with this subsection. In determining  
193 such financial need, the university shall exclude the value of equity in  
194 the principal residence of the student's parents or legal guardians, or in  
195 the student's principal residence if the student is not considered to be a  
196 dependent of his parents or legal guardians and shall assess the  
197 earnings of a dependent student at the rate of thirty per cent.

198 (h) The University of Connecticut Operating Fund shall be  
199 reimbursed for the amount by which tuition waivers granted under  
200 subsection (e) of this section exceed two and one-half per cent of  
201 tuition revenue through an annual state appropriation. The board of  
202 trustees shall request such an appropriation and said appropriation  
203 shall be based upon an estimate of tuition revenue loss using tuition  
204 rates in effect for the fiscal year in which such appropriation will  
205 apply.

206 (i) Said board of trustees shall grant remission or waiver of tuition,  
207 and shall waive all student fees, for graduate assistants at the  
208 university. Assistantship payments to graduate assistants shall not be  
209 considered salaries and wages under the provisions of section 3-119,  
210 and shall be paid according to a schedule prescribed by the university  
211 and approved by the State Comptroller.

212 (j) Said board of trustees shall provide health care coverage for  
213 graduate assistants at the university by enrolling such graduate  
214 assistants in a partnership plan as defined in section 3-123aaa, as  
215 amended by this act.

216        [(j)] (k) Said board of trustees shall allow any student who is a  
 217 member of the armed forces called to active duty during any semester  
 218 to enroll in any course for which such student had remitted tuition but  
 219 which was not completed due to active duty status. Such course  
 220 reenrollment shall be offered to any qualifying student for a period not  
 221 exceeding four years after the date of release from active duty without  
 222 additional tuition, student fee or related charge, except if such student  
 223 has been fully reimbursed for the tuition, fees and charges for the  
 224 course that was not completed.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	3-123aaa
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2015</i>	10a-105

**LAB**        *Joint Favorable Subst.*